

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 857
INFO USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FT, FR, PFOR
SUBJ: TFAI: PARIS ROUNDTABLE ENDS IN DISCORD BUT WITH
FIXED DATES FOR INDEPENDENCE

1. THE PARIS ROUNDTABLE ON THE FUTURE OF THE TFAI ENDED OVER
THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 19. THE GOF HAS FIXED MAY 8 FOR THE COMBINED
REFERENDUM AND ELECTION OF A NEW ASSEMBLY. INDEPENDENCE IS SET
FOR JUNE 27. NONE OF THE TFAI POLITICAL GROUPS APPEARS TO BE
SATISFIED WITH THE DETAILS. IN PUBLIC STATEMENT, GISCARD D'ESTAING
SAID FRANCE IS PREPARED TO GUARANTEE THE EXTERNAL SECURITY
OF THE NEW STATE. PENDING COMPLETE READOUT FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES,
THE EMBASSY TRANSMITS FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY PHILLIPPE DECRAENE
IN LE MONDE WHICH CONTACT IN FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMS US IS
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COMPLETELY ACCURATE. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN TEXT: COMPLETED MARCH 19 WITH A COMPROMISE, THE PARIS
ROUND TABLE ON THE FUTURE OF THE TFAI WAS NOT ABLE TO ACHIEVE
UNANIMITY AMONG THE DIFFERENT POLITICAL TENDENCIES OF THE
SMALL READ SEA TERRITORY. IN EFFECT, THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS WAS MADE PUBLIC IN THE ABSENCE OF MR. BARKAT GOURAT,

CHIEF OF THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY DELEGATION, AS WELL AS ALL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FLCS.

3. MR. GOURAT, WHO WAS NOT ABLE TO OBTAIN THE AGREEMENT OF HIS POLITICAL FRIENDS, INSISTED ON AN ABSOLUTE PARITY OF REPRESENTATION BETWEEN THE TWO MAJOR ETHNIC COMMUNITIES: THE AFARS, FOR WHOM HE IS A SPOKESMAN AND WHO ARE A MAJORITY OUTSIDE THE CITY OF DJIBOUTI, AND THE ISSAS WHO ARE A MAJORITY IN THE CAPITAL CITY.

4. FOR ITS PART, THE FLCS, WHICH HAD STOPPED PARTICIPATING IN THE WORK OF THE ROUNDTABLE AS OF MARCH 14, DID NOT ACCEPT THAT THE COMMISSION REACH A DECISION TO RECOGNIZE FIVE ELECTORAL SECTORS. THE FLCS PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE SATURDAY AFFIRMING, "AFTER 20 DAYS OF BARGAINING AND WANDERING, THE FLCS REGRETS THAT THE GOF IS NOT INTERESTED IN A REAL AND EQUITABLE DECOLONIZATION WHICH REFLECTS THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY.'

5. ACCORDING TO A FLCS SPOKESMAN, THE NEGOTIATIONS CONSTITUTE A TOTAL FAILURE FOR THE GOF. RESERVING THE ATTITUDE OF THE FLCS, HE AFFIRMS THAT THE FLCS WILL NOT BE BOUND LEGALLY, MORALLY OR POLITICALLY BY THE SO-CALLED AGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE JUST BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE GOF AND A SMALL GROUP OF COLONIAL LACKIES. ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, FRANCE IS TRIBILIZING THE TERRITORY INSTEAD OF DECOLONIZING IT, AND WISHES TO ESTABLISH A STATE IN THE IMAGE OF LEBANON.

6. IT IS TRUE THAT THE FRONT INSISTED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAN ONE VOTE, AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR ALL INHABITANTS OF THE TERRITORY. BUT IS WAS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SATISFY THIS DEMAND. IN EFFECT, MANY PEOPLE WHO RESIDE IN THE TERRITORY ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THERE ILLEGALLY BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES. WITHOUT ANY IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, MOST OF THESE RESIDENTS COME FROM SOMALIA AND BELONG TO THE ISSA TRIBES, AND THEIR NUMBER IS SO HIGH AS TO TILT THE ETHNIC BALANCE IN FAVOR OF THE SOMALIS.

7. ALTHOUGH THE FLCS SAID IT IS PREPARED FOR ANY LATER NEGOTIATIONS, THE COALITION WHICH GROUPED THE TFAI GOVERNMENT, THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY, THE LPAI, THE FLCS, AND UNI HAS COMPLETELY FLOWN APART. EVEN BEFORE DECOLONIZATION IS ACHIEVED, A CLIMATE OF DISUNION IS SHOWING ITSELF AMONG THE FUTURE RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE TERRITORY. THUS, DESPITE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PARIS CONFERENCE, A CERTAIN NUMBER OF UNCERTAINTIES HANG OVER THE FUTURE OF DJIBOUTI.

8. WE CAN ALSO ASK WHAT WILL BE THE ATTITUDE OF THOSE WHO

REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ROUNDTABLE IN THE FIRST PLACE. THE UNI OF FORMER GOVERNMENT CHIEF ALI AREF, THE MLD HEAD-QUARTERED IN ADDIS, AND THE MPL REGROUPING THE YOUNG AFARS OF THE EXTREME LEFT. WE CAN ALSO ASK ABOUT THE REACTIONS OF THE LOCAL POPULATION, BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING TO PROVE THEY WILL FOLLOW THE ADVICE TO REMAIN DISCIPLINED OF THEIR LEADERS. ALSO UNKNOWN IS THE RESULT OF THE OAU CONFERENCE ON TFAI IN ACCRA MARCH 28.

9. HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT THE IMPORTANT WEIGHT CARRIED BY THE LEADERS OF THE LPDI DURING THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH JUST ENDED COULD BECOME AN ELEMENT OF STABILITY. ENJOYING CERTAIN SYMPATHY IN MOGADISCIO, AND NOT STIMULATING IMPLACABLE HOSTILITY IN ADDIS, AND RESPECTED IN THE ARAB WORLD, MR. KDINI AND MR. GOULED, ARE IN A POSITION TO PLAY AN ENHANCED ROLE IN THE PURSUIT OF INDEPENDENCE. AFTER HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THE MOST RECENT AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE IN CAIRO WHERE HE MADE A GOOD IMPRESSION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MR. DINI IS ABOUT TO GO TO RYAD TO REQUEST SAUDI FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. END TEXT.
GAMMON

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